

BACK TO PRABHUPĀDA

The magazine of the real Hare Kṛṣṇa movement

Issue 41, Autumn 2013

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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GBC Adopts IRM Position!

Also in this issue:

Śrīla Prabhupāda v. Bhakti Charu Swami

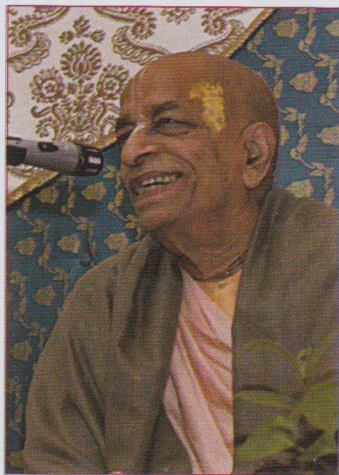
Defeating the Big Lie

GBC's Flip-Flop Gurus

Power Over Philosophy



ISKCON Revival Movement



BACK TO PRABHUPĀDA

Published quarterly

Founded under the inspiration of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, Founder-Ācārya, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

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The IRM Way

Welcome to Issue 41 of *Back To Prabhupāda* (BTP).

The following allegation was made against BTP:

"They should change the name to Blaspheming ISKCON. All it was, was criticizing devotees of ISKCON. Blaspheming his disciples is going to make them go back to Prabhupāda? I have to say I don't think so!"

The nature of this allegation, and the IRM's response to it, illustrate very starkly two completely different approaches to the truth. This allegation was made anonymously on the internet with zero evidence to support that it is correct. Rather, it is an emotional response based on what the person would like to be the truth. It is typical of what passes for "spiritual discourse" in "devotee" circles today. Absolutely anything at all can and will be alleged, with zero evidence to support it; instead, simply the fact that the allegation is made, is itself presented as evidence that it must be true! Thus, the persons making such allegations without supporting evidence are acting as if they are the ācārya—they consider that just their merely making a statement automatically makes the statement authoritative and factual!

Now, compare this to how the IRM approach such an allegation.

1) We would first establish exactly what blasphemy is, by providing evidence from Śrīla Prabhupāda's recorded statements.

2) We would then test if the

statements made in BTP satisfy the definition of blasphemy given by Śrīla Prabhupāda.

3) We would then determine, based again on Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings, whether the statements made in BTP would please or displease Śrīla Prabhupāda.

And, we did precisely such an exercise in the article in BTP 32, "The real meaning of Vaiṣṇava Aparādhā".

This leads us to a simple formula:

Allegation – Evidence = Allegation.

Allegation + Evidence = Fact.

A classic example of the above formula in action was the following. In 1978, the GBC made the following allegation: Śrīla Prabhupāda had authorised 11 guru "successors". However, no supporting evidence from Śrīla Prabhupāda himself was presented to establish this. Rather, devotees were simply expected to accept the word of the GBC as being the truth. And thus, the guru hoax was born. And today, the spread of the internet has simply allowed even more people to broadcast even more baseless allegations (many times anonymously), much faster, to many more others! Sometimes the infamous "Prabhupāda said" claim, without any recorded evidence for the same, will be added to such allegations to assert legitimacy for the allegation.

It is for this reason that the IRM website has **hundreds** of papers where all manner of claims

and allegations are subject to strict verification, and all assertions made by us are strictly supported by evidence from Śrīla Prabhupāda. And that this is not just an empty claim but the reality, is evidenced by the fact, as documented on the same website, that whenever a challenge has been made to any of our papers, our rebuttal has always successfully defended our papers against such challenges.

The material world is a world of duality, and thus it is full of claims and counter-claims. The materialists, the non-devotees, look at us devotees and think we are completely in illusion, due to being "brainwashed". We look at the non-devotees and see that actually they are the ones in illusion (*māyā*). Whereas within "devotee" circles, each group thinks every other group is in illusion—whether ISKCON, the Gauḍīya Maṭha, the IRM, etc. The only way to distinguish between all these conflicting claims is to elevate claims into facts through the use of evidence—which is what the IRM is dedicated to doing. Śrīla Prabhupāda states that **"false arguments can be conquered by factual ascertainment."** (SB, 1.9.27)

And, while others merely *claim* to do this, the IRM is *actually doing* it. Another BTP issue—full of facts, and not claims—stands as further testament to this.

Thank you and Hare Kṛṣṇa.

In Śrīla Prabhupāda's service,
Krishnakant

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda from our material vision on November 14, 1977, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Śrīla Prabhupāda, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *dikṣā* guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Śrīla Prabhupāda gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *dikṣā* guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order*—see back page to order your free copy.

GBC Adopts the IRM's Position!

Recently, Bhaktivedanta Manor, ISKCON's UK headquarters, published a comprehensive **Vision Statement ("VS")**, which will be used to guide their activities for the future. The VS was the fruit of intensive discussions with dozens of devotees representing multiple devotee communities over an extended period of two and a half years, and is therefore considered to be a document of immense significance. The statements in the shaded boxes below are excerpted from this VS. All emphases have been added.

Guru means Śrīla Prabhupāda

The VS states as its basis:

"The consultation matrix for decision and policymaking should be based on the guru, sādhu and śāstra principle"

It then offers a definition of what these terms mean:

"For leadership and management purposes the terms guru, sādhu & śāstra, should be understood as follows:

Guru: His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda;"

The VS correctly accepts that the term "guru" in **"Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra"** (**"GSS"**) refers to Śrīla Prabhupāda. However, Śrīla Prabhupāda further defines the "Guru" term in **"Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra"** as referring specifically to the *dikṣā* guru:

"Sādhu, śāstra, and guru corroborate one another. A sādhu is he who talks and acts in terms of the scriptures. And the guru is a sādhu who personally teaches his disciples according to the scriptures."

(*Beyond Illusion & Doubt*, Chapter 7)

"There are three things, sādhu-śāstra-guru. So to accept one, you have to take the opinion of the other two. Then you'll get the right way. Just like who is a guru? That is stated in the śāstras. Śrotriyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham. Śāstra

says, tad-vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet: "One must approach a guru.""

(Room Conversation, 18/7/1973)

"Tad-vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet: when one is interested in the transcendental subject matter of the Absolute Truth, he should be initiated. Such a person should approach a spiritual master in order to take dikṣā."

(*Nectar of Instruction*, Verse 5)

Thus, Śrīla Prabhupāda makes it clear that the "Guru" referred to in GSS is the *dikṣā* guru one approaches for initiation. The VS has a section at the outset under its "Preface" titled "endorsement by the UK GBC", which states:

"It is both my privilege and honour to endorse this vision statement for Bhaktivedanta Manor... Praghosa Das Governing Body Commissioner"

Therefore, the VS's declaration that "Guru" in GSS refers to Śrīla Prabhupāda means that the GBC have endorsed (unwittingly) the IRM's position that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the *dikṣā* guru for ISKCON that everyone should approach for initiation. The significance of this can not be underestimated. In a widely distributed Vision Statement, compiled through consultation with many devotees, and endorsed by the GBC, there is a commitment from ISKCON in print that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru! *Jaya!* Ironically, Bhaktivedanta Manor currently bans IRM supporters for the "crime" of believing that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru. That is, for believing in what their own Vision Statement now states!

GBC is everyone!

Having made this correct and momentous declaration, unfortunately other parts of the VS display the confusion and misunderstanding regarding GSS which we

detailed in the last issue (please see "The Truth About Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra"). The VS claims that the terms in "Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra" can also mean the following:

"Guru: The GBC Body

Sādhu: The respective GBC zonal secretary

Śāstra: ISKCON law-book and current GBC resolutions"

Thus, the GBC have conveniently been installed as actually being present in every single category of Guru, Sādhu and Śāstra! Yet, as we saw in the last section, Śrīla Prabhupāda defines the "Guru" term as referring specifically to the *dikṣā* guru. He never defined it as referring to the GBC. So this definition has been fabricated by the VS. Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda defines "Śāstra" as referring to the infallible word of God:

"The śāstra cannot be changed. God's word cannot be changed. Then what will be the difference between God and ourself? He is always perfect. [...] Sādhu śāstra guru-vākya, tīnete kariyā aikya. Śāstra is never changed."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 30/11/1976)

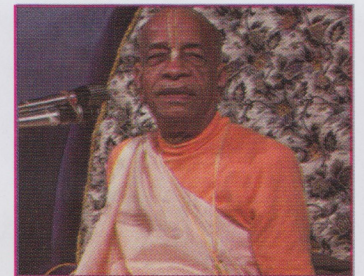
Yet, history has proven that GBC resolutions are far from being infallible, with resolutions openly admitting that previous resolutions were deviant (see the resolutions concerning the deviant "zonal ācārya guru system", for example). Nor can the GBC guarantee that their future resolutions will not be subject to similar fallibility.

GBC contradiction

Another problem with falsely installing the GBC as being present in every category of GSS is the contradiction which arises. For example, GBC HH Śivārāma Swami ("SRS") states that *sādhus* are defined as being departed gurus:

"Sādhus are those who were once guru, but they are no longer physically present."

(SRS Podcast, 13/12/2009)



GBC-endorsed statement accepts Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON's dikṣā guru.

However, the VS claims that the following also come under the "Sādhu" category:

"The temple president, temple council and all consultative bodies of devotees are included herein."

These devotees are clearly not in the elevated category of departed gurus that SRS defines as being applicable to the "Sādhu" category. Yet, the VS states that the following are also included under the "Sādhu" category:

"Senior ISKCON devotees—local and international;"

which automatically includes GBC member SRS. Thus, if SRS is accepted as being a "sādhu", then his teachings regarding what a "sādhu" is, must also be accepted. Thus, if we accept one part of the VS, we must reject another!

Conclusion

a) The VS presents evidence that the GBC have accepted that Śrīla Prabhupāda is indeed ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru!

b) However, the VS also demonstrates once again how GSS is misunderstood by ISKCON's leaders.

c) All this GSS confusion would be eliminated if one simply followed Śrīla Prabhupāda's orders without question, since whatever he states is already automatically in line with GSS:

"Guru means who follows the śāstra and sādhu. So there are three, the same."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 30/11/76)

Śrīla Prabhupāda v. Bhakti Charu Swami

We document below GBC-elected guru hoaxer, **HH Bhakti Charu Swami** ("BCS"), claiming that Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings on education are a mistake. Therefore, not content with having replaced Śrīla Prabhupāda as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru, the hoaxers now also wish to supersede his teachings. All emphases below have been added.

Śrīla Prabhupāda on schools

Śrīla Prabhupāda condemned schools as slaughterhouses:

"I have seen intelligent boys, they go to school and he is spoiled. [...] Simply slaughterhouse, this so-called school is called slaughterhouse. Yes, slaughterhouse."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Conversation, 9/7/73)

"The modern educational system without any knowledge of Bhagavān, I may tell you frankly, not only in India, everywhere, they are practically slaughterhouse."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 20/11/71)

BCS says mistake - 1

However, BCS claims that condemning such schools as "slaughterhouses" was a "mistake":

"The outside world is the world of *māyā*. The other schools are the slaughterhouses. These were the expressions that we used. Everybody outside is a damned *karmī*. That was the way, that was a mistake."

(BCS Lecture, 5/8/2013)

Śrīla Prabhupāda on gurukula

Having condemned schools as slaughterhouses, Śrīla Prabhupāda established an alternative "gurukula" system of education, in which material education was disregarded:

Jyotirmāyī: "You were saying that the children should learn

these three, geography and these things, and I wanted to know if they should also learn what they call biology, that is how the body is working, what are the bones and blood and..." [...]

Prabhupāda: "Simply waste of time, simply waste of time. [...] But this biology and this 'logy,' they are useless. There is no necessity. [...] You follow that, *brahmacārī gurukula*, that I've already explained. That should be done. Don't bring any new thing, imported ideas. That will not be helpful. It will be encumbrance. [...] Biologists, chemists, physicists, and mathematicians there are hundreds and thousands. We are not going to waste our time that *Gurukula* should produce a great grammarian, a great geologist, biologist, don't want that. There are many other educational institutions."

(Room Conversation, 31/7/1976)

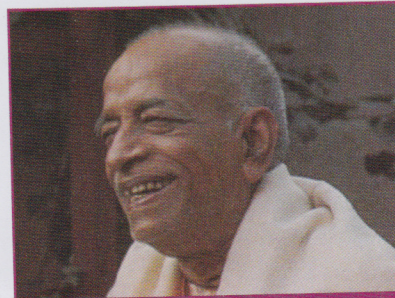
This was done deliberately because *gurukulas* were only meant to produce Kṛṣṇa conscious children, rather than persons qualified to get salaried jobs:

"And this material education...Of course, we are going to open the *gurukula*. Our aim is not how to make the students a big grammarian. No. That is not our purpose. How to make him fully Kṛṣṇa conscious. That is the aim of this *gurukula*. In the *gurukula* description there is nothing, such thing as how to make the student a big grammarian or... [...] There is no question of economic problem, that one has to become learned to get some service in some big school or college and get some big salary. This is not our aim. Our only aim is how to mold the life of the children to become Kṛṣṇa conscious."

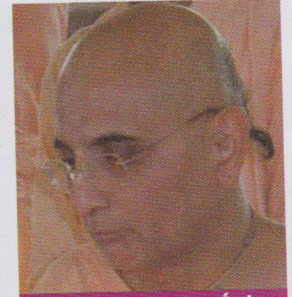
(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 31/3/1976)

BCS says mistake - 2

However, BCS states that Śrīla



Śrīla Prabhupāda:
Condemns modern education



BCS: Condemns Śrīla
Prabhupāda's teachings

Prabhupāda's establishing such *gurukulas* where material education was disregarded, was a "mistake", and therefore his disciple will be establishing schools that will not repeat this "mistake" made by Śrīla Prabhupāda's *gurukulas*:

"You see, our...Naveen Kṛṣṇa (BCS disciple) is now trying to establish the schools in India. [...] We are not going to disregard material education. That is the mistake we actually made in our *gurukula* system. In our *gurukula* system we completely disregarded the material side."

(BCS Lecture, 5/8/2013)

The cover-up

Thus, in summary we can see that BCS condemns Śrīla Prabhupāda's essential teachings regarding education as being one big "mistake". However, in this same lecture where he disagrees with Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings, BCS claims he is *communicating* Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings:

"the spiritual master considers that it is his responsibility to bring up, train his disciples. [...] And how do we train you up? We train you up by communicating Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings to you and engaging you properly in ISKCON."

(BCS Lecture, 5/8/2013)

Therefore, not content with attacking Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings, BCS also tries to hide his actions by blatantly lying about what he is teaching. He has to engage in such lying because otherwise he would be exposing him-

self as a rascal and demon for rejecting Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings:

"A *śikṣā*-guru who instructs against the instruction of spiritual, he is not a *śikṣā*-guru. He is a demon. [...] *Śikṣā*-guru does not mean he is speaking something against the teachings of the *dikṣā*-guru. He is not a *śikṣā*-guru. He is a rascal."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 4/7/1974)

Conclusion

We therefore have two opposing visions. A spiritual vision of education offered by Śrīla Prabhupāda. And an opposing vision which states Śrīla Prabhupāda's vision is a mistake, offered by BCS. This is not an isolated example of BCS attacking Śrīla Prabhupāda and his teachings, but is part of a wider trend. For instance, we highlight more examples of these attacks in the Sixth chapter of our book *100 Contradictions*, where BCS offends Śrīla Prabhupāda by stating that Śrīla Prabhupāda was only able to preach once he had renounced his household life; that the mentality of Śrīla Prabhupāda being "dead and gone" is fine; that Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions were "vague"; that Śrīla Prabhupāda was a "mere member of the GBC of ISKCON"; that Śrīla Prabhupāda did not know the disciplic succession; and so on.

One therefore has to choose to follow either Śrīla Prabhupāda or BCS. One cannot follow both.

The Fixed Guru v. Flip-Flop Guru

On August 3, 2013, the GBC Executive Committee announced the resignation of yet another one of its “as good as God” gurus:

“reports were brought to our attention alleging inappropriate behavior on the part of Mahānidhi Swami on both a personal and philosophical level. The GBC began an investigation of those and found some of the allegations to be true, including inappropriate interactions with a female disciple. Although the extent of those problems is not clear, we found there was definitely behavior not befitting someone in the renounced order of life. It was during this investigation that Mahānidhi Swami chose to resign.”

(“A Letter to All Devotees of ISKCON”, Executive Committee of the ISKCON Governing Body Commission (GBC), 3/8/2013)

The letter then went on to justify how its gurus can become deviants by quoting from GBC resolution 303 from 2013, which states that it is possible for them to deviate at any time:

“Yet it should be clearly understood that if such *dikṣā* or *śikṣā* gurus deviate from strictly following, they may fall down from their position.”

Thus, the GBC admits that the gurus it is providing are actually defined as being “flip-flop” gurus. That is, they can flip to becoming deviants at any time. In contrast, as we see below, Śrīla Prabhupāda specifically asks us to seek out a guru who is not a flip-flop guru, but a *fixed* guru—one who will never become a deviant. All emphases have been added.

The authorised guru

“The spiritual master must never be carried away by an accumulation of wealth or a large number of followers. A bona fide spiritual master will nev-

er become like that. But sometimes, if a spiritual master is not properly authorized, and only on his own initiative becomes a spiritual master, he may be carried away by an accumulation of wealth and large numbers of disciples.”

(*Nectar of Devotion*, Chapter 14)

Śrīla Prabhupāda makes it clear that the authorised guru will never become deviated. Therefore, by stating that their gurus are personalities who may become deviated, the GBC is also admitting that their gurus are unauthorized.

The fixed guru

“The bona fide spiritual master always engages in unalloyed devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. By this test he is known to be a direct manifestation of the Lord and a genuine representative of Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu.”

(Cc., *Ādi-līlā*, 1.46)

“The prime symptom of one who has become a spiritual master in disciplic succession is that he is one hundred percent fixed in bhakti-yoga.”

(Kṛṣṇa, *The Supreme Personality of Godhead*, Vol. 2, Chapter 32)

“If someone is one hundred percent engaged in the service of the Lord, he is to be understood as liberated.”

(SB, 3.33.10)

“A Spiritual Master is always liberated.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 21/6/1970)

“God is always God, guru is always guru.”

(*The Science of Self Realisation*, Chapter 2)

In contrast with the GBC guru who may flip from being a “guru” to becoming a deviant, the bona fide guru will always remain fixed as a guru. And, in the next section, Śrīla Prabhupāda states that it is this fixed, bona fide guru, whom we must accept.

Approach fixed guru

“In order to learn the transcendental science, one must approach the bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession, who is fixed in the Absolute Truth.”

(*Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*, 1.2.12 [cited in numerous places by Śrīla Prabhupāda])

“The guru must be situated on the topmost platform of devotional service. There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class.”

(Cc., *Madhya-līlā*, 24.330)

“There is no possibility that a first-class devotee will fall down.”

(Cc., *Madhya-līlā*, 22.71)

“The conclusion is that one cannot become a spiritual master unless he is a pure devotee of the Lord. [...] One should therefore take shelter of a bona fide spiritual master.”

(SB, 4.29.51)

“The pure devotee is always free from the clutches of māyā and her influence.”

(SB, 5.3.14)

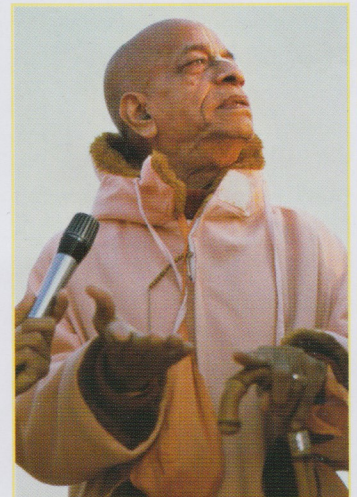
Non-cheater guru

“That is the business of spiritual master. He gives the right information; therefore he is respected so much, because he does not cheat. [...] Ordinary human being, he'll cheat you, or he'll give some information, he's cheating. But a guru, real guru, he'll not cheat you. [...] He does not cheat. That is the test of guru.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Conversation, 22/6/1976)

Prabhupāda: “[...] So the imperfect person is prone to become a cheater. So we should not take knowledge from the cheaters. What do you think?”

Svarūpa Dāmodara: “We should take knowledge from Kṛṣṇa.”



Śrīla Prabhupāda:
The fixed guru

Prabhupāda: “Yes.”

Svarūpa Dāmodara: “And Prabhupāda.”

Prabhupāda: “Yes. Prabhupāda is giving you the same knowledge, that's all. There is no question of cheating. I have received this knowledge from Kṛṣṇa, and you take this. That's all. My business is finished.”

(*Morning Walk*, 12/7/1975)

Śrīla Prabhupāda states that the whole purpose of accepting him as the spiritual master is that, unlike an ordinary human being, he will never cheat the disciple. Whereas, the GBC are stating at the outset that their gurus can go on to become cheaters!

Conclusion

We are offered two starkly different visions of guru. Śrīla Prabhupāda tells us to accept a guru who is authorised, always 100% fixed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, who will never deviate or cheat. The GBC, however, offers unauthorised gurus who may flip to become deviants and cheat. The fixed guru whom Śrīla Prabhupāda tells us to accept is available to everyone today; his name is Śrīla Prabhupāda. We should therefore follow Śrīla Prabhupāda's advice and accept only him as the spiritual master and reject the flip-flop gurus.

Defeating the Big Lie - 1

An infamous propaganda technique, called “the big lie” aims to work on the principle that if you repeat a lie often enough, people will eventually accept it as the truth. For example, GBC-elected ISKCON guru **HH Bhakti Vikāsa Swami (“BVKS”)**, repeatedly claims: **“It’s not that by reading Prabhupāda’s books anyone ever became a *rtvikvādi*, because you never get any idea about this by reading Prabhupāda’s books.”**

(BVKS Lecture, 2/2/2009)

“in fact if you read Prabhupāda’s books all the way through from beginning to end, you’d never, ever get the idea of *rtvikism*, because there’s nothing like that in there whatsoever.”

(BVKS Lecture, 31/8/2012)

“this *rtvik* theory [...] So it’s a theory that’s been concocted, ascribed to Śrīla Prabhupāda, although if you read all of Prabhupāda’s books you never get the idea.”

(BVKS Lecture, 4/2/2013)

BVKS continually claims that one can read all of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books and never even get the idea that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru. (BVKS uses various “*rtvik*” terms to refer to the IRM’s position that Śrīla Prabhupāda established himself as ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru, with *rtvik* priests initiating on his behalf). Here we test BVKS’s claim and demonstrate that it can be debunked by reading just one of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books, ***Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* (“Bg.”)**, thus exposing BVKS’s bluff for the lie that it is. All the quotes below in the shaded boxes are from the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, 1972 Macmillan edition.

1) The current link

The *Bg.* states at the outset:

“This *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is received through this disciplic succession:

1) Kṛṣṇa, 2) Brahmā, 3) Nārada; 4) Vyāsa, 5) Madhva, [...] 31) Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī, 32) His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda.”

This states that the disciplic succession’s current link is Śrīla Prabhupāda, with no names listed after Śrīla Prabhupāda.

If Śrīla Prabhupāda ceased to be the current link, either due to his physical departure or succession by his disciples, he would have ordered that the above declaration be amended. But he did not, and thus he remains listed as the current link in all future editions of the book. Thus, anyone reading this book would conclude that Śrīla Prabhupāda is still the current link in the disciplic succession.

2) The initiator

The main verse in *Bg.* referring to the spiritual master is 4.34:

“Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.”

This states that the spiritual master is the person who will impart knowledge unto us. When all members of ISKCON read Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books, they are having knowledge imparted to them by Śrīla Prabhupāda. And Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books are the primary source through which all ISKCON members have knowledge imparted to them. It is not that when one reads *Bg.*, it is BVKS who is imparting to one this knowledge! Thus, the above verse is describing Śrīla Prabhupāda as the self-realised spiritual master we should accept. And the phrase “impart knowledge unto you” is a translation of “*upadekṣyanti te jñānam*”, which is the third line of verse 4.34, with the word-for-word translation of *upadekṣyanti* being

“initiate”. Thus, the spiritual master everyone in ISKCON is directed to have knowledge imparted from, and who initiates us through imparting this knowledge, is Śrīla Prabhupāda.

3) No physical limit

Verse 4.34 just mentioned states that the spiritual master is accepted through submission, service and inquiries. Śrīla Prabhupāda explains in the purport that this process is carried out by the disciple:

“Unless there is submission and service, inquiries from the learned spiritual master will not be effective. One must be able to pass the test of the spiritual master, and when he sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding.”

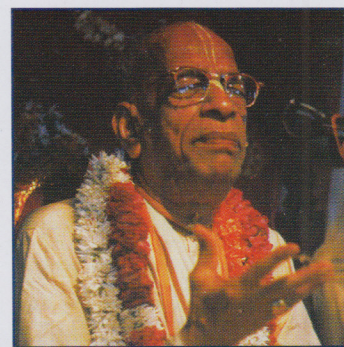
Yet, many disciples never met Śrīla Prabhupāda, nor did they need to seek out another spiritual master to “submit to, serve and inquire from” after Śrīla Prabhupāda’s departure. Thus, this process cannot be dependent on, or require, Śrīla Prabhupāda’s physical presence.

4) No GBC guru

In the purport to verse 4.42, Śrīla Prabhupāda comments on the process of accepting a spiritual master, mentioned in 4.34, as follows:

“One is therefore advised to study *Bhagavad-gītā*, or any other scripture, under a bona fide spiritual master, with service and surrender. A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal, and he does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord.”

This describes that we must accept a spiritual master who “does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord”. This clearly describes Śrīla Prabhupāda. However, it specifically rules



Bhagavad-gītā confirms:
Śrīla Prabhupāda is our *dikṣā* guru

out the GBC gurus who claim to have replaced Śrīla Prabhupāda as the current link in the disciplic succession, since, as we saw in the preceding article, the GBC states that it is possible for any of them to deviate at any time:

“Yet it should be clearly understood that if such *dikṣā* or *śikṣā* gurus deviate from strictly following, they may fall down from their position.”

Conclusion

a) Points 1) and 2) show that *Bg.* supports that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru. And points 3) and 4) show *Bg.* does not support that Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *dikṣā* guru position should have been terminated by the GBC’s succession program following his physical departure.

b) Indeed, the only event which could cause Śrīla Prabhupāda to cease being the current link in the disciplic succession—his authorising his disciples like BVKS to succeed him as the next current link—is actually the one idea in *Bg.* for which, to use BVKS’s language:

“there’s nothing like that in there whatsoever.”

c) Therefore, contrary to BVKS’s big bluff, Śrīla Prabhupāda’s books only support that he, and not self-proclaimed “successors” such as BVKS, should be ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru; a fact which does not change, regardless of how many times BVKS claims the opposite.

Defeating the Big Lie - 2

In the preceding article, we demonstrated how **HH Bhakti Vikāsa Swami ("BVKS")**'s repeated claim regarding what Śrīla Prabhupāda teaches in his books was proven to be false. There are two reasons why such false claims are able to con the masses in ISKCON. One reason is that, utilising the infamous "big lie" technique mentioned in the previous article, it is hoped that the masses will not bother to verify such repeated claims, but instead just assume that because they are continually repeated, they must be true! This relies on the laziness and blind faith of the masses to not bother to actually check what they are told by their "authorities", because it is hoped that the masses will assume that no one would be so foolish as to keep repeating an obvious lie. This is the psychology of the so-called "big lie" in action. The second reason involves using false definitions and positions regarding the issues in question, and it is this line of cheating that we will analyse below.

"Rtvik theory" bluff

In the preceding article, BVKS used terms such as "rtvik theory", "rtvik-vāda", etc., to categorise the IRM's position, which he then claims Śrīla Prabhupāda never preached in his books. It is a fact that Śrīla Prabhupāda did not preach a "rtvik theory", or "rtvikism", or "rtvik-vāda", and so on, inasmuch as Śrīla Prabhupāda never preached about these things. However, as we demonstrated in the article "Śrīla Prabhupāda v. The Rtviks" in BTP 37, it is actually those guru hoaxers who are opposing the IRM's position who are proposing a *de-facto* "rtvik" system, whereas the IRM is actually proposing a *dikṣā* guru system. So yes, if you search Śrīla Prabhupāda's books for a "rtvik theory", you will not find it. But then the IRM does not propose such a "the-

ory" either! We simply state the following facts:

a) Śrīla Prabhupāda established himself as the *dikṣā* guru of ISKCON from the moment ISKCON was founded in 1966.

b) He established an initiation system using representatives ("rtviks") which allowed him to initiate disciples in ISKCON without needing to be physically present.

c) He never ceased acting as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru by authorising either BVKS or anyone else to take his place.

These facts are supported by Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings.

"Fall-down" bluff

In one of the lectures we quoted in the preceding article, BVKS actually defines the "rtvik theory", which he claims Śrīla Prabhupāda never preached, as follows:

"Well, Prabhupāda, he couldn't have made these people gurus because Prabhupāda would know that they would have fallen down, and therefore he must have wanted this."

(BVKS lecture, 4/2/2013)

This is not the IRM's position. The IRM does not:

a) Speculate regarding why Śrīla Prabhupāda would do something;

b) Then offer *that* speculation as the evidence that he must have done it!

Rather, as we stated in the last section, we simply state what Śrīla Prabhupāda *actually* did and ordered, ask that everyone accept this and follow such orders, and leave it at that.

Not necessary

In one of the other lectures we quoted in the preceding article, BVKS defines "rtvikism" as follows:

"there are some who say that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the only guru for the next 10,000 years."

(BVKS Lecture, 31/8/2012)

Categorising the IRM's posi-

tion in this way can then be followed with the following argumentation:

1) It is claimed that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the only guru.

2) To support this, a quote where Śrīla Prabhupāda states he is to be the "only" guru is needed.

3) Since Śrīla Prabhupāda never states this, the IRM's position is defeated.

However, the *need* for Śrīla Prabhupāda to state he is the "only" guru would only arise for the following reason—to *counteract an assumption* that *successor dikṣā* gurus in ISKCON are supposed to follow. And if such an assumption is unfounded, then no such counter-assertions by Śrīla Prabhupāda are required in the first place. Because if Śrīla Prabhupāda has not authorised any *other dikṣā* gurus to succeed him, then he will *automatically* continue to exist as ISKCON's sole *dikṣā* guru. And, the fact is that in Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, if read "from beginning to end" (to use BVKS's language), one will find no statement from Śrīla Prabhupāda that:

a) He will cease to act as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru;

b) Instead, others, such as his disciples, will act as *dikṣā* gurus in ISKCON.

Therefore, in order to accurately frame the challenge presented by the IRM, which BVKS claims to be presenting, BVKS would actually need to state:

"There are some, like myself, who say that Śrīla Prabhupāda will be succeeded by other dikṣā gurus in ISKCON. And, in fact, if you read Prabhupāda's books all the way through from beginning to end, you'd never, ever, get the idea for this, because there's nothing like that in there whatsoever."

And BVKS would be correct!

Assumption trick

The previous section illustrated the following trick which

is used to support the guru hoax position:

1) Make an assumption.

2) Use this assumption to demand a specific counter-quote from Śrīla Prabhupāda, which, because the original assumption was unfounded, does not actually need to exist in the first place.

Here are some more examples of this trick in action:

1) Assume that successor *dikṣā* gurus should exist in ISKCON.

2) Demand that Śrīla Prabhupāda states "there will be no more *dikṣā* gurus after me".

Again, since Śrīla Prabhupāda has not authorised any successor *dikṣā* gurus to start with, he does not need to make such a counter-statement.

1) Assume the spiritual master stops initiating when he departs.

2) Demand Śrīla Prabhupāda states "I will continue to initiate after my departure".

Since the assumption here is unfounded, again Śrīla Prabhupāda is not required to make such a declaration to counteract a non-existent restriction.

One can actually prove anything if one starts with a false assumption! Thus, if one wishes to claim that one should be a *dikṣā* guru in ISKCON, or whatever, then one actually needs to provide evidence for *that*. Not construct an argument which relies entirely on having implicitly assumed it to begin with.

Conclusion

1) The "big lie" can easily be defeated if devotees will always insist on checking and verifying all claims. The IRM has been completely successful in defeating the guru hoaxers only because it follows this simple rule.

2) If you begin by falsely defining and framing the position you are claiming to rebut, then you can "defeat" any position. It's just straightforward cheating.

BTP Interactive

No faith in today's ISKCON

"ISKCON has become decadent. Śrīla Prabhupāda must be very unhappy even in Vaikuṇṭha!"

- **N.R. Samleti, Solapur, India**

"Please send all the information on the changes and demonic influences that have affected ISKCON. Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- **Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Dāsa, Hereford, England**

"ISKCON became too materially motivated and external or superficial after the physical disappearance of Śrīla A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda. I trust only his books and message, and I know that all GBC members try to take his position and exploit or abuse his mercy. I support your goals."

- **Śrīmatī Gaṅgādevī Devī Dāsī, London, England**

"I believe Śrīla Prabhupāda is a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa (God). What you write about his "successors" is what I have always suspected. I was a devotee from 1987 till 1991 and have had several experiences during that time. I still have his books and think about Kṛṣṇa every day, but I don't visit a temple anymore."

- **Manuel Gomes, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands**

"ISKCON has become degraded because of amoral activities. The overall picture is grim."

- **Dinesh Shah, Solapur, India**

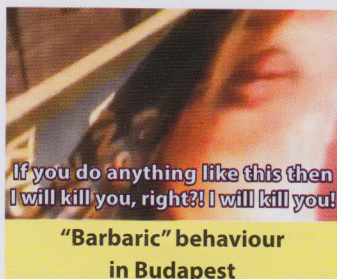
"Hare Kṛṣṇa. It took me so long to acknowledge receipt of your literature because I was blown away by the revelations that had been pointed out so cleverly and truthfully that even a fallen sinner like me can see. These and many other things—like when offering midday incense to Śrīla Prabhupāda and at the same time *Back To Prabhupāda* Issue #37 fell through the letterbox—all conspire to tell me what I already believe, that what you are preaching is the truth and certainly not

hate, as I have read in *BTP* that is claimed by ISKCON responders and supporters of lies. Also, I fear too many people high up in ISKCON have so much to lose whether it be an abode, position, adoration or financial, and/or a mixture of all, and they will try to fight tooth and nail to cling on to it, not realising that everything material is *Vriksha*, like a tree, and will be ultimately cut off.

I believe all initiates should go in Śrīla Prabhupāda's book as his disciples—then everyone can spend more time serving Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa very sweetly. Much like you have so nicely been doing, by publishing the truth.



Please could you send *100 Contradictions: The life & teachings of His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami*, and a copy of *The Final Order*, as well as any back copies of *BTP*, and I will try to not let happen to *BTP* what I saw happen on YouTube, of devotees handing out *BTP* in Detroit and Budapest, and the treatment they received was nothing short of barbaric and surely not the behaviour of devotees or even aspiring devotees, let alone seeing them tear up *BTP* with Śrīla Prabhupāda's image on. (Links to these videos can be found on the IRM homepage: www.iskconirm.com).



"Barbaric" behaviour in Budapest

That does not seem to be the action of devotees or aspiring devotees, but of misguided drones who can't study and make sensible decisions, but are so driven by lust, anger and greed and follow blindly.



Detroit Ratha-yātrā:
"Devotee" ripping
Śrīla Prabhupāda's picture

I pray to Śrīla Prabhupāda and to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa to give you continued support in turning ISKCON back into the ISKCON it would have been when Śrīla Prabhupāda was on this planet.

Many thanks indeed, your ever well-wisher,"

- **Mark Rose, Sheffield, England**

Make them accountable

"Keep up the good work so that neophyte devotees must be informed as to who the *dikṣā* guru is in our movement. With this knowledge, hopefully Śrīla Prabhupāda can be placed in his rightful position and all those bogus gurus can be held accountable for the injustices that they have done to so many sincere and aspiring devotees in this movement of Lord Caitanya for too long. It is time now. Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- **Gurvaṣṭaka Devī Dāsī, Washington D.C., USA**

"It's sad to know that all these people who achieved so much trust and level are not still clean from the inner part of their mind, body and soul. Should be asked why? Why? Why? And if found guilty should be pushed away."

- **Bishwa Pratap Singh, London, England**

Saved from initiation in today's ISKCON

"I am a supporter of ISKCON for over 30 years, and I love Śrīla Prabhupāda. I have all his books and I have studied them carefully. I am a Hindu Pandit and I preached with these books. I was planning to take initiation but because of the problems with the GBC, I reject them. Since I have been reading your magazine *Back To Prabhupāda* I have got so much enlightenment. I want you to send me a copy of *Back To Prabhupāda* so I can have my personal copy for myself and my family members to read! Please send me a copy of *The Final Order* and other books. Thank you. Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- **Sewsankar Mahadeo, Essequibo, Guyana**

"Finally some things of sense are revealed. Alone already, my request for initiation has always been rejected, it seems as if putting uncomfortable questions blocked access."

- **Christian Winter, Bedburg-Hau, Germany**

Editor replies:

Dear Christian,

You can see that it was Kṛṣṇa's arrangement that your attempts to get initiated by the hoax gurus were rejected by the hoaxers themselves. You were saved! Now, you can remain only at Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus feet.

Only BTP can change today's ISKCON!

"Hare Kṛṣṇa. The articles are very good. I am confident it will change our present ISKCON. Please proceed and continue. Your spirit is Śrīla Prabhupāda's Will, and towards the society and towards Godhead. Thank you."

- **Aruna Chaitanya Dāsa, Udupi, India**

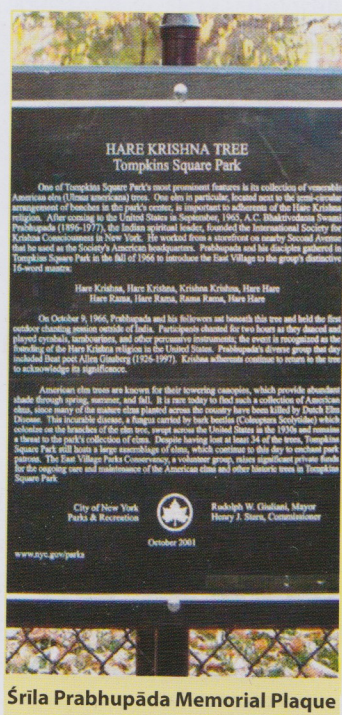
"All glories to your service Krishnakant Prabhu! Please continue to bring the light of knowledge to the darkness in ISKCON and make them see that Śrīla

BTP Interactive (continued)

Prabhupāda is the sole *dikṣā* guru.”

- Vāṇī Devī Dāsī, New York, USA

(Editor's note: Through her daily devotion in sweeping the cobblestones around the famous elm tree in Tompkins Square Park, New York City, under which Śrīla Prabhupāda personally sat and chanted the very first Hare Kṛṣṇa *kīrtana* in the Western world, Vāṇī Devī Dāsī single-handedly persuaded the City to establish a permanent memorial plaque dedicated to Śrīla Prabhupāda, signed by the City's Mayor and Commissioner, as depicted below.)



Sadness leads to happiness

“Thank you for your BTP magazine. As saddening as its contents sometimes are to read, there is a ring of truth and we appreciate that.”

- Minna Talvisto, Kitee, Finland

Editor replies:

Though the deviation in ISKCON we are exposing may be saddening, the exposure actually leads to a very happy result, as devotees are enlightened with the truth, and take shelter in Śrīla Prabhupāda's real teachings; copi-

ous evidence of which we present in these very pages of the “Interactive” section!

Spiritual v. material strength

“The movement is in need of requiring spiritual cleansing. Right now it is in dire straits without an able skipper. IRM is alone—it just needs a few more muscles.”

- V. Ullas, Kerala, India

Editor replies:

Yes, in terms of material strength—finance, manpower, buildings, etc.—the IRM may be outmatched. But what matters is not material strength but spiritual strength—adherence to Śrīla Prabhupāda's orders and the truth—because without that everything is all useless anyway:

“If you become disobedient to guru, then your business is finished.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 10/8/1974)

“Because that is offense. Guror avajāñā. First offense is guror avajāñā, defying the authority of guru. This is the first offense. So one who is offensive, how he can make advance in chanting? He cannot make. Then everything is finished in the beginning. Guror avajāñā. Everything is there. If one is disobeying the spiritual master, he cannot remain in the pure status of life. He cannot be śikṣā-guru or anything else. He is finished, immediately.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 4/7/1974)

And it is this spiritual strength the IRM is aiming to provide by re-acquainting ISKCON's leadership with Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions!

IRM literature in Spanish

“I received Número Especial, El auténtico guru Hare Kṛṣṇa (Spanish BTP Special Summary Issue) and Special Issue No. 2. Thank you.

The historical information on ISKCON and its gurus is very

good. Śrīla Prabhupāda is the sole *dikṣā* guru of ISKCON. Śrīla Prabhupāda *ki jaya!!!*”

- Salvador Vela, San Salvador, El Salvador

(Editor's note: As mentioned in QNN in this issue, the IRM's Spanish website has also been launched.)

PHILOSOPHY CORNER

“Hare Kṛṣṇa Prabhuji,

I am indebted to you for revealing to me deviant gurus and hoaxes in ISKCON that I was never aware of. I had delved into Kṛṣṇa consciousness 5-6 years ago by the grace of Śrīla Prabhupāda! My problem is: I am unable to chant even a single round! I am no longer experiencing bliss! I am feeling depressed that Prabhupāda is not showering His mercy and Kṛṣṇa is very elusive. Please guide me.”

- Nitesh Pillai, Bangalore, India

Editor replies:

Dear Nitesh,

The first point is that you must chant because Śrīla Prabhupāda has asked us to chant, regardless of our attraction for chanting, and the lack of perceived results:

“Of course an advanced devotee feels sometimes hopelessness, just like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu prayed: “O my Lord out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your Holy Names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for them.”

However in the neophyte stage it is best to develop firm faith, that just by chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra everything else will come, and try to avoid the ten offenses. So please continue to chant 16 rounds daily and follow carefully the four rules and regulations, and Kṛṣṇa will help you more and more.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 12/7/1975)

Thus, even if one has no attraction for chanting, one must still chant continuously.

Devotional service must be unconditional and therefore we must perform it without any expectation of instant results, thus ensuring it will be both unmotivated and uninterrupted:

“The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.”

(SB, 1:2:6)

So immediately begin chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa every day, and vow to do this for the rest of your life regardless of the outcome, simply to please Śrīla Prabhupāda by obeying his orders, and thereby pleasing Kṛṣṇa Himself.

“Hare Kṛṣṇa. I have a question. I am a new devotee and working on my *japa*¹, making sure that it is pure, not rushed, and just doing it to really show my love of Kṛṣṇa. I completely believe in your movement and that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the guru for ISKCON. I am currently doing 8-10 rounds of *japa* a day. Is this OK for now? I am trying to be a great devotee. Thanks for your time. Your servant”

- Lee Helle, New Jersey, USA

¹ Chanting on beads.

Editor replies:

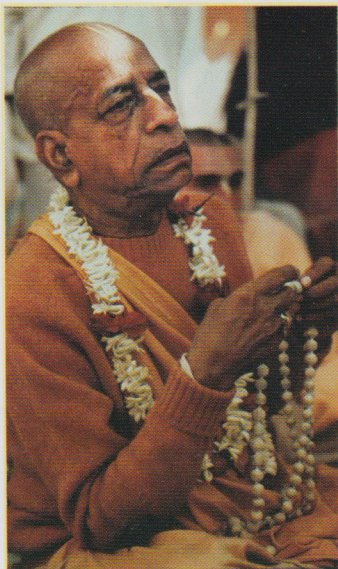
Hare Kṛṣṇa! Regarding the chanting, the system is to always chant a minimum number of rounds, and then to increase that number, making sure to never go below what you chant, with a view to reaching 16 rounds:

“You fix up your rounds. Try to increase it but never decrease it.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 17/12/1967)

Śrīla Prabhupāda wants that 16 rounds are chanted, by force initially, if necessary:

BTP Interactive (continued)



Śrīla Prabhupāda on chanting:

"Try to increase it but never decrease it."

Brahmānanda: "No, he's saying that when we chant our rounds, how can we be sure that when we chant the round that the round is a perfect, attentive round, sincere?"

Prabhupāda: "Therefore it is *śāstra*, "You must." There is no question of understanding."

Brahmānanda: "The quality of the chanting he's asking. How can we make the quality the best?"

Prabhupāda: "Quality, you'll understand first of all come to the quality. Without having quality, how he'll understand the quality? You follow the instruction of your spiritual master, of the *śāstra*. That is your duty. Quality, no quality—it is not your position to understand. When the quality comes there is no force. You will have a taste for chanting. You will desire at that time, "Why sixteen round? Why not sixteen thousand rounds?" That is quality. That is quality. It is by force. You'll not do it; therefore at least sixteen rounds. But when you come to the quality, you will feel yourself, "Why sixteen? Why not sixteen thousand?" That is quality, automatically. Just like Haridāsa Ṭhākura was doing. He was not forced

to do. Even Caitanya Mahāprabhu, He requested, "Now you are old enough. You can reduce." So he refused, "No. Up to the end of my life I shall go on." That is quality. Have you got such tendency that you will go on chanting and nothing to do? That is quality. Now you are forced to do. Where is the question of quality? That is given a chance so that one day you may come to the quality, not that you have come to the quality."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 2/11/1975, emphases added)

So first we must chant 16 rounds, and then with time the quality will come.

Racial attacks

"Dear Krishnakant Prabhu,

I want to sincerely appreciate your tolerance and patience to the racial allegations inflicted on you ... I am inspired by your unswerving service to Śrīla Prabhupāda even though you have been bombarded by slanderous remarks by several people. I feel that they might be in the mode of ignorance as they are considering a fallen guru (Bhagavān) banned by the GBC to be worshipable (Please see BTP 37, "ISKCON's Racial Arguments Continue" – Ed.), whereas a person giving them Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions is considered a demon. You are the embodiment of Lord Caitanya's instruction of being more tolerant than a tree and humbler than the grass—it is INSPIRING to a fallen, useless and sinful soul like me. Your servant"

- Piyush Ahuja, New Delhi, India

THE BTP EXCHANGE

"As far as I understand there are at least three categories of those who have become guru in ISKCON:

1. Those who are trying to satisfy their ambitions and fully com-

ply with ISKCON administrators.

2. Those who fell but were "forgiven" and continue to be "dikṣā guru".

3. Some sensible gurus who were forced by the administration to give *dikṣā* to the devotees. Otherwise they could have been kicked away from ISKCON and deprived of any possibility to preach (more or less decent).

Could you please give me your vision of these categories?

Thank you in advance! Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- Ilya Sulin, Moscow, Russia

Editor replies:

In regards to the categories of unauthorised gurus you have mentioned, ultimately all 3 categories are the same, since the "guru" in each case has voluntarily decided to usurp Śrīla Prabhupāda's position. How such an action may have come about does not change the fact that the end result in each case is identical.

"Thank you very much for your clarification, it couldn't have been expressed more exactly. I see you as a great soul unexposed to any illusion.

I have to admit that Śrīla Prabhupāda's greatness and persuasive style, multiplied by your detailed explanation of what he meant, is the most serious weapon against *māyā*² for this *Kali-yuga*³.

I don't know whose body you had before but I assume you are definitely very close to Kṛṣṇa and will pray for your mission. I understand that today's ISKCON formula that "Everybody will chant Hare Kṛṣṇa very soon" is illusion for now, IRM's aim seems to be more realistic.

As Śrīla Prabhupāda said, if we can transform at least one person's consciousness to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we deem our aim achieved. I see you as real successor of Śrīla Prabhupāda and join

you always willing to serve. Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- Ilya

² Illusion.

³ The current age of quarrel and hypocrisy.

Yes, as Śrīla Prabhupāda said, if even one person becomes Kṛṣṇa conscious, then his mission will be a success:

"One moon is sufficient to illuminate. There is no need of millions of stars. Similarly, we are not after many millions of disciples. I want to see that one disciple has understood Kṛṣṇa's philosophy. That is success. That's all."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Conversation, 12/4/1975)

"According to revealed scriptures, if a spiritual master can convert even one soul into a perfectly pure devotee, his mission in life is fulfilled. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura always used to say, "Even at the expense of all the properties, temples and maṭhas that I have, if I could convert even one person into a pure devotee, my mission would be fulfilled."

(Cc., Ādi-līlā, 7.91)

"You have got, say, ten thousand followers. That does not mean success. Everyone has got some followers. [...] But what kind of followers they have? [...] My Guru Mahārāja used to say like that, that "If I get at least one quality disciple, then all my labour will be success."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Room Conversation, 2/5/1976)

Thank you for your appreciation and prayers, but I wish to make it clear that I am just an ordinary conditioned soul, and not special in any way. And there is no question of myself or anyone ever becoming Śrīla Prabhupāda's "successor", since Śrīla Prabhupāda does not require this:

Guest: "[...] are you planning

BTP Interactive (continued)

to choose a successor?"

Śrīla Prabhupāda: "It is already successful. [...]"

Guest: "But there must be somebody, you know, needed to handle the thing."

Śrīla Prabhupāda: "Yes, that we are creating. We are creating these devotees who will handle."

Hanumān: "One thing he's saying, this gentlemen, and I would like to know, is your successor named or your successor will..."

Śrīla Prabhupāda: "My success is always there."

(Room Conversation, 12/2/75, emphases added)

Reporter: "Are you training a successor?"

Śrīla Prabhupāda: "Yes, my Guru Mahārāja is there."

(Press Conference, 16/7/75)

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Krishnakant

Disciples of Śrīla Prabhupāda

"Hare Kṛṣṇa! For the remaining 10,000 years of *saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Śrī Caitanya, Śrīla Prabhupāda will remain to be the only *dikṣā* guru. Our duty as his disciples is to distribute his books and safeguard them very carefully. *Jai Śrīla Prabhupāda!*"

- P.H. Manjunath, Bangalore, India

Banned by ISKCON from proclaiming Śrīla Prabhupāda

"I understand the argument, and I have always thought of Śrīla Prabhupāda as my guru, but I have a doubt. Since ISKCON is against the idea, then if I proclaim my beliefs and state that I am a disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda, will I not suffer a backlash and be barred from entering the temples?"

- Bhakta Lino, São Paulo, Brazil
(Translated from Portuguese)

Editor replies:

Yes, if you go to an ISKCON

temple and proclaim that you are a disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda, they may ban you, just as IRM supporters have already been banned from ISKCON temples. Therefore, you need to decide what is more important to you:

a) Living and following the truth,

or

b) Being able to associate with those who are disobeying Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Evidence

"Hare Kṛṣṇa. What evidence or incidents from *śāstra*⁴ should I quote to support & validate the *ṛtvik* philosophy? Kindly guide me."

- Giridhar Ghodkar, Hyderabad, India

⁴ Scripture.

Editor replies:

If people require evidence, then simply direct them to our literature as well as our website (www.iskconirm.com). For example, the BTP Special Summary Issue presents the evidence that Śrīla Prabhupāda did not order that he be replaced as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru, as well as answers all relevant objections. That is all you need to do.

Remaining vigilant against all types of hoaxes

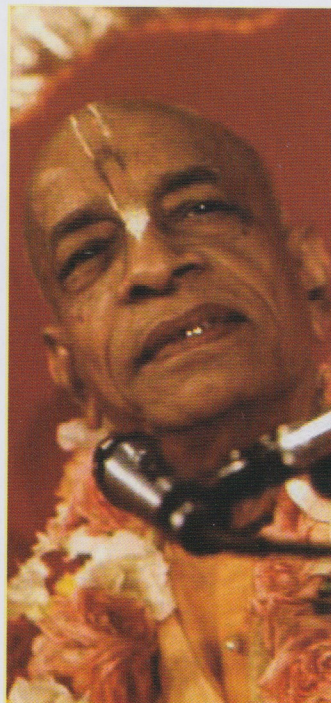
"How do we tell from meeting a *ṛtvik* priest that they are doing it for themselves or Prabhupāda? Even if the IRM's position is established, will this stop individuals using Prabhupāda's name for themselves?"

- Simon Hook, London, England

Editor replies:

You are correct that if persons wish to cheat in Śrīla Prabhupāda's name, then they will attempt to do so, even if the correct guru system is in place. Persons can easily claim to adopt the platform that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the guru just as an excuse to remove control of properties and

manpower from the hands of the GBC and into their own hands. We have exposed such deviation in BTP. Please see, for example, the BTP 8 article "The Many Varieties of Deviation", found online here: www.iskconirm.com/deviation and also the Editorial from BTP 19, "The Great Guru Hoax Part 3".



"Very strong management and vigilant observation required."

- Śrīla Prabhupāda

Śrīla Prabhupāda had stated that in order to guard against possible deviation due to persons attempting to become guru in ISKCON, there should be "strong management" and "vigilant observation":

Bhavānanda: "There will be men, I know. There will be men who will want to try and pose themselves as guru."

Tamāla Kṛṣṇa: "That was going on many years ago. Your God-brothers were thinking like that. Mādhava Mahārāja."

Bhavānanda: "Oh, yes. Oh, ready to jump."

Prabhupāda: "Very strong management required, and vigilant observation."

(Room Conversation, 27/5/1977)

Such vigilance is, therefore, actually required to guard against any type of deviation and abuse, whether coming in the form of guru hoaxes, or other "*ṛtvik*" hoaxes. And we are attempting to provide such vigilance by exposing all these different types of hoaxes, whether or not those behind them claim to profess that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru.

IRM/BTP APPRECIATION

"This magazine *Back to Prabhupāda* is illuminating many devotees in the whole world. You have philosophically defeated these fake gurus. Your magazine is very informative and speaks the truth without concealing the lies of the GBC who have violated all spiritual laws by using the name of Śrīla Prabhupāda for Power, Profit, Adoration and Distinction."

- Cayetano Rodriguez, San Salvador, El Salvador

"A friend has recommended me to read *Back To Prabhupāda*. Then I thought I should visit your website (www.iskconirm.com)."

- Navin Seeruttun, Savanne, Mauritius

"The IRM is inspiring."

- Phulmathie Devi Dāsi, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

"I think that BTP is a complete magazine and the whole family reads it!"

- Dinesh Kumar Phulwari, Rajasthan, India

"I love Kṛṣṇa and Śrīla Prabhupāda. I really want that ISKCON must run as per the desire of HDG Śrīla Prabhupāda. Congratulations to the team of IRM who have taken the initiative and are doing a wonderful job. All the best, Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Lecturer, HIHT University, Dehradun, India

"Only Śrīla Prabhupāda can give the best advice and who-

BTP Interactive (continued)

ever reads *BTP* will have the best knowledge and their desires will be full of blessings from Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- **Vijay Kumar Pillay, Phoenix, South Africa**

"Great information for me to have ... I am a new devotee without initiation or a guru yet... There seems to be so much confusion when this could all be so simple if all would listen to Prabhupāda!! HARE KṚṢṂA!!"

- **Dennis Gress, New Mexico, USA**

"BTP is really a divine gift."

- **Prastuti Arora, Mumbai, India**

"I am learning more than I could imagine. Thank you for the literature."

- **Brian W. Vessells, Michigan, USA**

"Thank you once again. Another job well done!

Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- **Dan Slater, Richardson, Australia**

"I would like to know the bare facts of ISKCON."

- **Ganasri-Aruna Das, College Principal, West Bengal, India**

"I love Prabhupāda as *dikṣā* guru via the *rtvik* system. I like this magazine. I want to know about God."

- **Professor Pradip Kumar Bera, West Bengal, India**

"I would like to know the reality."

- **Poli Das, West Bengal, India**

"I just read *BTP* for the first time. Really nice magazine. Keep up the good work.

Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- **Bhupendrabhai Patel, Anand, India**

"Thank you for sending *Back To Prabhupāda* magazine as it keeps me up to date. I feel that if George Harrison was alive today he would agree with me that Śrīla Prabhupāda is the original guru and that we should follow his orders. There is a Lancashire saying 'everything comes out in the wash'. Śrīla Prabhupāda is the true guru. The truth revealed at last. Keep up the good work and inform every-

body of the truth!

From a 60 year old faithful devotee. *Hari Bol!*"

- **Marilyn Raeburn, Preston, England**

"Thank you for your time on this matter."

- **Sean McNulty, County Down, UK**

"I like these books very much. These books are a good message for human life."

- **Shivendra Singh Yadav, Sitapur, India**

"The *BTP* was good to read and it improved our culture as well as our knowledge."

- **Naveen T. Naik, Sirsi, India**

"I enjoy reading the truth that is being released in your magazines and it gives us a lot that we need to learn to be on the right path. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you."

- **Shane Hansraj, Durban, South Africa**

"I believe the IRM to be the real truth. I need to be informed and helped with any and all information possible..."

Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- **Randall Uerkvitz, San Diego, USA**

"The issue is filled with substantial points to expose hypocrite ISKCON leaders and warn innocent devotees and newcomers that they do not get trapped by these bait and switch operators and pretenders. The articles in this issue are very impressive. Wishing you well."

- **Gadadhar Dāsa, Texas, USA**

"I want to know Śrīla Prabhupāda's *vāṇī*⁵ in *The Final Order* and other books from IRM—what Śrīla Prabhupāda actually desired."

- **Deepak Kumar Pattnaik, Orissa, India**

⁵ Teachings.

"Sir, wonderful work. I really like reading *BTP* regularly. I feel only Śrīla Prabhupāda is to be followed from whom we get salvation. I would like to participate in IRM activities. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Humble servant of servants."

- **Pandurang Narasimharao Kulkarni, Bangalore, India**

"I love your publications. Thank you for the blessings."

- **Angel Moore, Illinois, USA**

"Haribol! Keep up the good works IRM."

- **Chandravali Dāsi, California, USA**

"Dear Krishnakant Prabhu, I owe my gratitude to you and the IRM for opening my eyes, and I finally found the right way. For the rest of my life, until the day I die, I want to keep chanting 16 rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *Mahā-mantra*, and worship Śrīla Prabhupāda, our real guru. I have full faith in Śrīla Prabhupāda and the IRM as well.

Hare Kṛṣṇa, I wish all the best for you dear Prabhu!"

- **Imre Horvath, Munich, Germany**

"Continue sending this magazine ... everybody is slowly becoming more Prabhupāda conscious. This will save lots of trouble.

Thanks.

Your servant,"

- **Divya Puruṣa Dāsa, Mathura, India**

"Please keep the *BTPs* coming. I love them so much. Thank you for this *sevā* of returning ISKCON back to its original state. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Blessings,"

- **Jitendriya Dāsa, Michigan, USA**

"I have enjoyed reading the first *BTP* you sent me. It is very inspiring. Thank you very, very much."

- **Mrs. Sosheila Jugdeo, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

"Thank you very much for all your fine service *Prabhujis!*"

- **Wade Ryan, Nebraska, USA**

"BTP is excellent and informative."

- **A.R. Muraleedharan, MA, Superintendent, Guruvayur Devaswom, India**

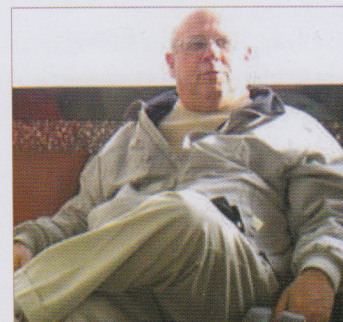
"Jaya Prabhupāda. Many thanks. It's great work that you are doing. Hare Kṛṣṇa!"

- **Dean Amore, California, USA**

"I had a divine look when I read the magazine."

- **A. Gandhi, Kanniyakumari, India**

"I want to know the truth ab-



"Stumped":
HH Hridayānanda Dāsa Goswami

out Śrīla Prabhupāda."

- **P. Radhika, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Hyderabad, India**

"Superb work! Surely Śrīla Prabhupāda will be pleased. Well done.

Keep on fighting until we get justice. We are all on your side. *Jai Prabhupāda!*"

- **Karan KT, Mangalore, India**

"Understanding PRECISELY is the CRUX. There is no point in doing any thing without understanding precisely HIS DIVINE GRACE Śrīla Prabhupāda. Really brilliant explanations (full credit for the precision) ... to advocate HDG Śrīla Prabhupāda ... Thanks a lot for the 37th issue. And let me take this opportunity to CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR TEAM for this wonderful service to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. I am really touched by your arguments in support of His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda by stumping Hridayānanda Goswami—"Fault-finder of Śrīla Prabhupāda Busted", Back Page, *BTP* 37 (this can be read online here: www.iskconirm.com/busted).

Is there any point in associating and following the people simply because they are full time, wearing a *kanthi mālā*, *tilak* and shaved head?

The PRIMARY and the BEST way to progress in spiritual life is to UNDERSTAND His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda from the books, lectures, morning conversations, room conversations."

- **U. Sreejith, Kerala, India**

Motivated by Power, Not Philosophy

The GBC claim that allowing Śrīla Prabhupāda to remain as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru, which it calls "the posthumous *rtvik* initiation theory", must be banished for being a "dangerous" philosophy:

"The GBC hereby declares that the posthumous *rtvik* initiation theory is a dangerous philosophical deviation. It is therefore totally prohibited in ISKCON."

(GBC Resolution 1990-73)

Claiming that it was the desire of GBC member HH Śivarāma Swami ("SRS") to uphold the above-mentioned GBC resolution, ISKCON UK Headquarters Bhaktivedanta Manor ("BM") issued the following banning letter to anyone who accepted that Śrīla Prabhupāda continues to act as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru:

"It is the desire of the local ISKCON, UK Charity Board of Directors, chaired by His Holiness Śivarāma Swami, that I strictly uphold the above mandate, and hence this letter. They have obliged me to ban all persons who advocate, assist, organise or help finance posthumous *rtvik* theories from coming to Bhaktivedanta Manor."

(Banning Letter issued by BM)

Thus, it is claimed that ISKCON is so concerned to protect the movement from deviant philosophies, that those who simply agree with them must not be allowed to even set foot in ISKCON's temples.

However, let us review how ISKCON deals with philosophies which are *actually* deviant.

Offending Kṛṣṇa is welcome

Below is a report given by SRS:

"In July, a well-known Hindu organization launched a worldwide *yātrā* on the grounds of Bhaktivedanta Manor. [...] On the stage were to be two yogis, a guru, a Śaṅkarācārya, and myself—compromising association!

[...] the Śaṅkarācārya [...] made philosophical points clearly targeted at his hosts—namely, the ISKCON devotees and, more specifically, Their Lordships Rādhā-Gokulānanda. [...] I felt that you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, our Society, and of course Kṛṣṇa had been grievously offended. [...] In Kṛṣṇa's temple you (the Śaṅkarācārya) have said that Kṛṣṇa is a subordinate manifestation of Brahman."

(SRS, *Vyāsa-pūjā* offering, 2002, emphases added)

Thus, in this instance, not only were those who have a deviant philosophy offensive to Lord Kṛṣṇa allowed entry to an ISKCON temple; they were actually *invited* to actively broadcast those offensive philosophies in the temple!

Denying Rādhā is welcome

A guru named HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami ("CJS") teaches:

"there is no character called as 'Rādhā' at all. [...] We can take Rādhā as a symbol [...] Hence Rādhā is not really a person. [...] The description you have seen must be from IS(K)CON books. They feel that Kṛṣṇa is the origin to all the incarnations. [...] Yet, he is only one *avatāra* among many."

(CJS's website, 'FAQs')

Thus, according to CJS:

a) Rādhā (Kṛṣṇa's eternal consort) does not exist.

b) Kṛṣṇa is not the origin of all divine incarnations, but is just an incarnation Himself.

Thus, his position is completely deviant according to ISKCON. Indeed, CJS even admits this, stating that the positions he attacks are coming from "ISKCON books". Yet, not only is he not banned from ISKCON temples for having such deviant views, he was actually *invited* this year by ISKCON for a lecture tour of various North American ISKCON temples!

Minimising Kṛṣṇa is welcome

ISKCON leader HH Jayādvaita Swami explains:

"ISKCON has gone from being beyond Hinduism to being—very much Hindu! [...] priests earn a livelihood doing weddings and hair cutting ceremonies, [...] Temples once the exclusive hold of Gaura-Nitāi and Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa now are dominated by *mūrtis* of demigods. In some quarters ISKCON has undergone considerable Indianisation."

(HH Jayādvaita Swami, ISKCON Studies Conference, Italy, 28/7/2007)

Thus, the GBC allows temples to be "dominated" by demigods, thereby marginalising the exclusive worship of Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead—even though this is against Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy—to appeal to the Hindu community.

Deviant initiation is welcome

The GBC claims that those who were initiated by Prabhaviṣṇu Dāsa ("PV"), who is a "fallen" ex-guru, are considered to be connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda and able to continue to function spiritually by taking shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda:

"Those devotees initiated by Prabhaviṣṇu Dāsa continue to be connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda and our entire Vaiṣṇava paramparā. [...] Thus, they are encouraged to take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda and *śikṣā* gurus or other senior devotees as per their faith."

(GBC Resolution 311, 2012)

However, some of these initiations were conducted whilst PV was deviating sexually:

"he has admitted to a number of sexual fall-downs particularly in 2001 [...] experienced bouts of spiritual weakness for some years"

(Extracts from GBC Executive Com-

mittee statements, 13/1/2012 and 2/2/2012)

These devotees are, therefore, like the devotees who follow the GBC-prohibited "*rtvik*" position; accepting the spiritual shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda without having a GBC-certified "living" guru. Yet, the GBC still considers them to be connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda. The only difference is that they once had an initiation ceremony via a person who may have been sexually deviant. The GBC therefore advocates that if one were to get initiated today directly by Śrīla Prabhupāda (*rtvik*), one would **not** be connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda, but those who got initiated by a sexual deviant **are** connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Conclusion

a) If their position as "good as God" gurus is threatened, the GBC will spring into immediate action, claiming that such threats constitute a "dangerous" philosophy, and issue serious sanctions.

b) However, if Kṛṣṇa's position as God, along with that of His eternal consort Śrīmatī Rādhārāni is attacked, the GBC will actually promote such proponents.

c) If minimising Kṛṣṇa's position through encouraging demigod worship will financially benefit ISKCON temples, it is done.

d) Even connection to, and spiritual shelter of, Śrīla Prabhupāda without having a "living" GBC guru, is accepted—just as long as there was a role at one time for such a person to provide a ceremony, even if he was a sexual deviant at the time!

Thus, as long as their own position is not under immediate threat, all manner of actual philosophical deviations will be tolerated by the GBC. This double standard demonstrates that the GBC is motivated not by a concern for philosophy, but only by a desire for holding on to power.

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)



ISKCON Ministry endorses BTP exposé

In the BTP 30 article, “ISKCON’s New Mission”, we featured the above photograph, with the caption: “Santa’s sleigh, reindeer and polar bears on ISKCON altar”. We highlighted Śrīla Prabhupāda’s following directive in regard to Deity worship in ISKCON:

“The Deity worship should be done just in the way it was carried out in my presence.”

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 13/11/1970)

This appeared to have prompted the following comment posted on the website of an ISKCON guru, HH Romapāda Swami:

“Recently during the Christmas holidays, it was noted that certain temples under ISKCON management were dressing the Deities with the outfits of father Christmas and so the question is if it is bona fide to do this. This kind of dressing didn’t happen when His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda started the movement [...] There are many imaginary characters (which in some ways may be similar to father Christmas) but I don’t see a need to dress Śrī Śrī Rādhā Krishna in the dress of such characters.”

ISKCON’s Deity Worship Ministry subsequently responded with the following statement:

“The ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry does not condone ISKCON temple deities being dressed in a non-traditional fashion. While we are aware of and have addressed incidents in the past where ISKCON temples

have performed non-traditional dressing, we are not aware of any incidents this last holiday season that were brought to the Ministry’s attention. If any devotees have knowledge of recent or future occurrences, we encourage them to bring this to our attention.”

(Both quotes from “Digest 395: Deity Dressing | HH Romapāda Swami”)

The above statement:

- a) Agrees with BTP that such Deity dressing and decoration is indeed a deviation;
- b) States the Ministry has taken action to correct this deviation;
- c) Encourages BTP in exposing this deviation.

Thus, this is more evidence of how BTP continues to be instrumental in helping to bring ISKCON’s deviations to account!

Spanish website launched

In the past, we have presented updates on the spread of the IRM’s literatures in different languages. *The Final Order* is available online in 14 languages, and in hard copy book form in 8 languages. While the BTP Special Issues are available in hard copy form in 12 languages—with copies of the latest publication, the Gujarati edition of BTP Special Summary Issue 1, having been mailed internationally to all our Gujarati-speaking subscribers along with the last issue.

Additionally, we have established a number of parallel IRM foreign language websites, where many of the articles available on the main English website, www.iskconirm.com, have been

translated, with more being added all the time. These sites have been available until now in Czech, Dutch, French, Hungarian, Russian, Serbian, German and Portuguese. However, there has also been a long-standing demand for a Spanish site, due to there being many Spanish speaking devotees present not just in Europe and South America, but also in the USA. We are happy to report that such a site has now been launched, and can be found at: www.iskconirm.com/Spanish.htm. All of the foreign websites can be accessed via the links on the homepage of the main English website.

Classic quotes

“Can a guru be voted in? Not according to the scriptures we follow. [...] A guru is not a title than can be conferred by anyone else except the student.”
(ISKCON guru Kripamoya Dāsa, 31/8/2013)

“HG Kripamoya prabhu is authorized to give dikṣā initiation in ISKCON.”

(“Guru Services Minister”, HH Prahlādānanda Swami, 5/4/2011)

“A candidate for guru in ISKCON must first receive a three-fourths majority vote of approval in a council composed of all the GBC zonal secretaries of his current preaching area and at least ten other senior devotees residing in his area of activity.”
(GBC Resolution 413, 2004)

So, Kripamoya Dāsa says one cannot be a guru through voting, and cannot have the title of guru conferred on him by anyone other than the student. Yet, he himself became a GBC-elected ISKCON guru by having the title conferred on him by being authorised by the GBC through voting! Thus, according to Kripamoya Dāsa, his position as guru (and that of many others in ISKCON) is unauthorised!

Sahajiyā “divinity”

A most powerful way to justify one’s illegitimate position of power is to claim that it is directly sanctioned by God. Thus, we have guru hoaxer HH Bhakti Charu Swami (“BCS”) claiming that:

“And as your spiritual master, what is my responsibility? [...] When you joined ISKCON you joined Śrīla Prabhupāda. Śrīla Prabhupāda has accepted you as his property. And then due to some divine arrangements I have become your group leader.”

(BCS Lecture, 5/8/2013)

BCS claims that he succeeded Śrīla Prabhupāda as *dikṣā* guru due to “divine arrangements”. However, BCS has previously admitted that he became a guru not due to any “divine arrangements”, but due only to the moral and sexual degradation of his Godbrothers, followed by heavy pressure from other Godbrothers:

“I became a spiritual master after some of my very senior and very qualified god brothers fell down. Therefore, I didn’t have any illusion that I was a pure devotee and I was infallible. Initially I didn’t want to take up this very grave responsibility of becoming a spiritual master, but since quite a few devotees were very determined to take initiation from me and were waiting for a long time, and since there was a lot of pressure from some of my senior Godbrothers also, I accepted that responsibility.”

(BCS *Iṣṭagoṣṭhi*, 16/9/2002)

This tendency to equate the manifestation of material arrangements with being spiritual is a characteristic of a pseudo-devotee sect known as *sahajiyā*:

“Otherwise one will gradually become sahajia or one who takes spiritual advancement as something materially manifest.”
(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 3/6/1970)



TMDs in Action: A Case Study

Last issue's cover story described various **Techniques of Mass Deception ("TMDs")** deployed by ISKCON specifically to deceive devotees into accepting false conclusions regarding Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings. These TMDs were categorised under 6 separate headings:

TMD1: Senior Vaiṣṇavas

TMD2: Tradition

TMD3: Guru, *sādhū* and *sāstra*

TMD4: Phantom quote

TMD5: Half-quote

TMD6: False conclusion

As confirmation, just after our article went to press, right on cue, GBC-elected ISKCON guru **HG Kripamoya Dāsa ("KMD")** gave a lecture on 3/8/2013, which contained the following extract:

"Prabhupāda was 63 at the time, the *brahmachārīs* were much younger. They took Prabhupāda to one side and they said, 'You can't initiate. Only in our *āśrama*, only Keśava Mahārāja initiates.' So the next day Prabhupāda went to Keśava Mahārāja. He said, 'Is this true?' Keśava Mahārāja said, 'Yes, that's the custom, each *āśrama* has one'. And Prabhupāda said, because Keśava Mahārāja had given him *sannyāsa*, he said, 'Oh, so you have got me married, but now I cannot have any children?' (1) So it's quite clear that Prabhupāda saw initiation as a vital component of giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others. (2) When he said in 1973, 'So all of you will be the spiritual master next', he actually meant it (3). So leaving aside that particular debate—how one becomes a guru in Kṛṣṇa consciousness (4)—one essential point we can take from this is it means to bring a person, our preaching means to bring a person to the point of commitment. (5)"

And, as we demonstrate below, the above utilises multiple TMDs in just a few sentences! For ease of reference, we have labelled these sentences with numbers which we shall refer to throughout

this case study.

TMD 4: Phantom quote

In (1), KMD opens with some statements Śrīla Prabhupāda is supposed to have made when he was 63. However, there is no evidence Śrīla Prabhupāda actually made these statements, because KMD admits when questioned over a month later that he is not relating statements from Śrīla Prabhupāda, but a story told by Śrīla Prabhupāda's Godbrother:

"It's a story that was told by Śrīla Prabhupāda's godbrother Krishnadas Bābājī. He found it amusing"

(KMD, personal website, 10/9/2013)

It is significant to note that in the original lecture, KMD fails to declare that he is merely relating a story from the Gauḍīya Maṭha, rather than presenting quotes directly from Śrīla Prabhupāda. This is an example of TMD 4: Phantom quote, since Śrīla Prabhupāda does not accept such "stories" as authoritative:

"Unless it is there from me in writing, there are so many things that Prabhupada said."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 2/9/1975)

TMD 6: False conclusion

KMD states this supposed story about Śrīla Prabhupāda in (1), because KMD uses it to claim in (2) that any person preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness should also initiate:

"So it's quite clear that Prabhupāda saw initiation as a vital component of giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others."

KMD then uses this to support the same overall conclusion he offers in (5):

"one essential point we can take from this is it means to bring a person, our preaching means to bring a person to the point of commitment."

However, the story states that in any *āśrama*, only one person

who is the head initiates. KMD's guru colleague, **HH Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS")** agrees, and states that for ISKCON:

"ISKCON is Śrīla Prabhupāda's āśrama. [...] Generally the guru has an āśrama and he hands over the authority of the āśrama to one disciple. He appoints a successor. But Śrīla Prabhupāda didn't do that in ISKCON."

(BCS, Disciples' Meeting, 1/8/2007)

Therefore, even if this story was true, it does not change the fact that in the ISKCON "āśrama", only Śrīla Prabhupāda should initiate, since he did not authorise anyone to succeed him, as BCS, whom KMD fully supports, admits above. Thus, without any succession authorisation from Śrīla Prabhupāda, KMD cannot claim that persons who are preaching in ISKCON, such as himself, should initiate instead of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

TMD 4: Phantom quote

KMD goes on to state that Śrīla Prabhupāda did authorise guru successors who would initiate, by claiming in (3):

"When he said in 1973, 'So all of you will be the spiritual master next', he actually meant it."

Only, Śrīla Prabhupāda never stated in 1973 that "you will be the spiritual master next", as KMD claims here.

TMD 6: False conclusion

The quote KMD refers to is actually a statement made in 1969, where Śrīla Prabhupāda says:

"Every one of you should be spiritual master next. And what is their duty? Whatever you are hearing from me, whatever you are learning from me, you have to distribute the same in toto without any addition or alteration. Then all of you become the spiritual master. That is the science of becoming spiritual master. [...] Caitanya Mahāprabhu

says, āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra 'sarva-desa: "O My dear disciples, I tell you that you, all of you, become spiritual master. Simply you carry out My order. That's all." "And what is Your order?" "The order is the same: yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa [Cc. Madhya 7.128]*."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 5/9/1969)

***"Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as they are given in Bhagavad-gītā and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam."**

The process Śrīla Prabhupāda describes above, of becoming spiritual master by spreading his teachings unchanged, was followed by his disciples for many years after receiving the above order in 1969. It resulted in all persons in ISKCON becoming initiated by Śrīla Prabhupāda, and not by those doing the preaching. That is, the preachers acted as instructing spiritual masters on Śrīla Prabhupāda's behalf. And Śrīla Prabhupāda does not state above that this process should change in the future, whereby those preaching his teachings should become a different type of spiritual master, who would replace Śrīla Prabhupāda as the initiator of ISKCON.

Conclusion

Two years ago, KMD changed his position to become a GBC-elected guru, thus initiating those whom he preached to as his own disciples. In the above excerpt, KMD employs multiple TMDs to try to support his position that those preaching should initiate. However, Śrīla Prabhupāda does not state that preaching in ISKCON means that he is to now be replaced as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru by those doing the preaching.

This case study also demonstrates how one must scrutinise statements from ISKCON's leaders very carefully, as even a handful of sentences can be dripping with deception!

Putting Śrīla Prabhupāda in the Centre

All parties claim to want to put “Śrīla Prabhupāda in the centre”. This in turn is done by actually putting *Śrīla Prabhupāda* in the centre. That Śrīla Prabhupāda is put in the centre by actually putting Śrīla Prabhupāda in the centre is such an obvious tautological truth that even those who are unable to do this are forced to agree. Thus, ISKCON leader **HH Kadamba Kānana Swami (“KKS”)** agrees with the IRM that we must focus on Śrīla Prabhupāda rather than ISKCON’s multiple guru successors, otherwise ISKCON will not be successful:

“the relationship with Prabhupāda must be at the core of our spiritual life. Otherwise this movement cannot be successful. We would become a conglomeration of different sectarian groups. Sometimes we can see this. When one spiritual master visits the temple there is a whole different group of devotees and then when another spiritual master comes there is another ISKCON. Each time the face of ISKCON changes. We are one family and we can only be one family if we all look at Prabhupāda.” (KKS, posted 23/9/2011)

KKS states this even though, for over 10 years, he has also been creating the same “another ISKCON” he condemns, by acting as yet another spiritual master in ISKCON with his own set of disciples.

Similarly, ISKCON leader **HH Krishna Das Swami (“KDS”)** states the IRM position, that we should only focus on Śrīla Prabhupāda as the guru of ISKCON, as there is no need to go and “find out” any guru other than Śrīla Prabhupāda:

“My guru fell down? My guru fell down? Can there be worse thing, any worse thing than this, that guru falls down? What with the heart of the disciple? So, movement, because the Founder-Ācārya of this movement was the purest of the purest, embodiment of purity, embodiment of surrender, embodiment of obedience, embodiment of faithfulness, and empowered by Lord Govinda Himself—that is why this movement is continuing. [...] And how to become a *pukka guru, Prabhupāda is there. You don’t have to go to anywhere else. *Pukka* guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda. *Pukka* disciple, Śrīla Prabhupāda. No need of going anywhere to find out.”** (KDS, Lecture, 12/2/2012)

***Genuine.**

KDS states this even though, since 1987, KDS has been putting *himself* forward as a GBC-elected successor guru to Śrīla Prabhupāda, whom one should “find out” and accept, having initiated over 400 disciples.

However, contradicting these statements by his guru colleagues, GBC-elected guru **HH Bhakti Charu Swami (“BCS”)** shockingly claims that we can have Śrīla Prabhupāda at the centre by actually putting BCS in the centre:

“They also made excellent arrangements to celebrate my birthday. On that day, they presented me with a surprise compilation of *Vyāsa-pūjā* offerings containing over 300 offerings from many of you. Although my travel schedule has been hectic since then, I have been regularly reading the offerings and I am thoroughly enjoying them. The appreciation and gratitude that you have expressed through your offerings are very touching. I am also very happy that you all are able to read the offerings in the shared e-book and I would encourage all of you to do so because it will help to bring our family closer together with Śrīla Prabhupāda at the centre.” (BCS *Iṣṭagoṣṭhi*, 25/9/2013)

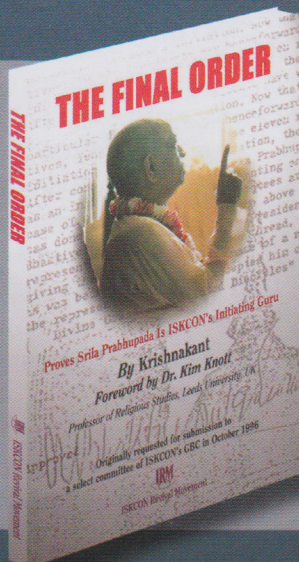
BCS claims that his disciples will be able to “come closer together with Śrīla Prabhupāda at the centre” through the act of participating in the basking of the glorification of BCS! This is done via reading a whole book of *Vyāsa-pūjā* offerings dedicated to praising BCS, which are based on the false premise that BCS has succeeded Śrīla Prabhupāda as ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru.

That BCS believes that putting *himself* in the centre is the equivalent of putting Śrīla Prabhupāda in the centre, is evidence of the immense delusion which arises when one is motivated by the desire to take Śrīla Prabhupāda’s position and be worshipped as a “good as God” guru—the desire for **PAD (Profit, Adoration and Distinction)**. This desire is so strong that one will say absolutely anything, no matter how absurd, to try to justify it.

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Issue 41, Autumn 2013